



Montana Behavioral Initiative

A newsletter to support the implementation of Positive Behavior Supports (PBIS) in schools throughout Montana

Volume 3 Issue 1

Fall, 2012-2013

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

- Robert Collier

Inside this Issue:

National Recognition	2
Expect Respect Campaign	3
Team Training Dates	4
Ideas for Immediate Implementation	4

When Finished Route To:



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

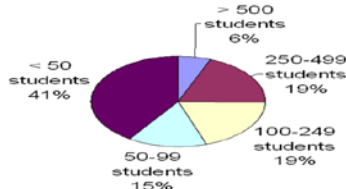
opi.mt.gov

Reaching Beyond the Schoolhouse Doors: Part I - National Recognition

Recently our state MBI Director, Susan Bailey-Anderson, gave a presentation for the National Center on PBIS in Washington, DC. Titled "MONTANA-IZING PBIS...", the session highlighted many of the unique characteristics of PBIS in Montana. We have a lot to be proud of! Montana is a national leader in working with other agencies for the benefit of children.

Montana's size and sparse population have created an environment where networking is valued and much has been accomplished with limited resources. While many states host a PBIS department at the state level (complete with directors and a cadre of consultants), Montana has a .25 director (Susan) and 20 part-time OPI employees – made up of retired educators and educators who are still working in local school districts. The total student enrollment in our state is 141,693, and the majority of our students attend schools with an enrollment of 50 or less.

School Size and Enrollment



There are numerous factors that make Montana unique:

Our philosophy - One of our first contributions was developing a set of belief statements. We have both a philosophy and a process to provide direction for MBI implementation.

Student Involvement - We actively recruit and involve students in MBI, hosting yearly MBI Youth Days. Middle and high school students are brought together for two-day regional conferences to develop leadership skills and create MBI action plans for their school.



Recently, MBI partnered with the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations. Schools received training on Student Aspirations, participated in the My Voice survey, and held focus groups to clarify student insights and opinions at their schools.

National Recognition

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

School Mental Health - MBI consultants provide training on MBI for school mental health providers. In turn, school mental health has become an important part of the MBI learning community, giving workshops at the MBI Summer Institute. Representatives from the mental health field also participate in the MBI Council, a group of stakeholders who meet to work together and provide direction for the MBI. This partnership has led to improved wrap-around services for children in need and the development of collaborative problem-solving models.

Nutrition - The MBI has been a long-time partner with Team Nutrition and Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity. Student and adult workshops always include healthy snacks and activities. Partnership here has increased the opportunity for youth to make healthy food choices in school. Programs such as "Recess Before Lunch" have also been piloted and implemented.



Families and Community Involvement - Through our partnership with PERC (Parent Education Resource Center), schools received MBI-sponsored training in the Family Engagement Tool and the Teacher

Home Visit Project. In addition, Helena is the first community in the nation to expand the MBI process from the schools into the business community (see next article).

Early Childhood - Head Starts, childcare centers, and pre-schools have a long history of involvement with the MBI. Training for early childhood providers is incorporated into our Summer Institute and team training. State Consultants who specialize in the pre-school population are available to assist. The Center for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning has used the MBI as a model for early childhood programming



After-School Programs - 21st Century Community Learning Grants support the inclusion of the MBI in after-school programs.

Collaboration - The MBI has established strong working relationships with Graduation Matters Montana, the Montana Board of Crime Control, School Resource Officers/Probation Officers, OPI Bully-Prevention program, Safe Schools/Healthy Students, School Administrators of Montana, the University of Montana School of Psychology, the Division of Educational Research and Service at the University of Montana, Jobs for Montana Graduates, and many more.

Professional Development - The MBI provides sixteen days of

team training for schools interested in implementing Tier I Universal systems. Additional specialized training is offered to site facilitators and administrators. Our yearly Summer Institute is one of the best in the nation and brings around 800 participants together every summer.

According to Susan Bailey-Anderson, with all of this and more, "Every child in Montana should be touched by MBI."

I'm not afraid to take a stand
Everybody come take my hand
We'll walk this road together,
through the storm
Whatever weather, cold or warm
Just let you know that, you're not
alone

• Eminem – "Not Afraid"



Reaching Beyond the Schoolhouse Doors: Part II – Community Involvement

Expect Respect campaign launched

August 9, 2012, 12:00 a.m.

• By ALANA LISTOE Independent Record, reprinted by permission



Local youth, Youth Connection Coalition and downtown Helena business owners kick off the Helena Expect Respect campaign at Alive @ Five Wednesday night at Pioneer Park. The movement brings community members together by stepping up to actively and responsibly reduce youth violence in Helena.

Some business owners and community leaders are hoping to set a tone of respect in Helena and they launched their campaign at Alive @ 5 under a moderately gloomy sky Wednesday night. Specifically that means expecting respect from each other, to local businesses and the community as a whole.

The philosophies and framework to create a caring and safe environment comes from the Montana Behavioral Initiative, a research-proven strategy for effective education in schools through supporting staff and student behavior and supportive decision making. This is the first time the strategies will be implemented in a community-wide environment.

According to the Youth Connections Coalition, 59 percent of youth in Helena perceive adults in the community as thinking stealing, fighting and vandalizing another person's or business' property is OK. And it says that seven out of 10 Helena youth

perceive violence as a type of entertainment.

Shalon Hastings, owner of Taco Del Sol, is one of the business owners involved in the effort to reduce inappropriate behavior among young people.

"We are setting the bar so people know that should they come across a situation, they know they have support of their fellow citizens, businesses and it gives them confidence to step in," she said. "We have all committed ourselves to it."

Participants at the event launching included county commissioners, Helena Police Department, the Big Dipper, Lewis and Clark Library and student representatives from each high school

Susan Dotter, MBI expert, is delighted with the community involved. "These Helena businesses are the first in our state and probably in our nation to take this learning framework and adapt it to a broader landscape: Our public places for families and community get-togethers like this. They are brave folks, and I guess it's not a surprise that our most entrepreneurial community representatives would be trailblazing such a great idea."

Drenda Niemann, director of Youth Connections, said the group has been learning about effective ways to foster respect community-wide since February. "Tonight is the unveiling of the message and how we hope that will create a safe and supportive environment for our kids," she said.

Five Helena Expect Respect banners funded by the Business Improvement District and Youth Connections will go up this week between Pioneer Park and the Great Northern Carousel. Window clings will accompany the campaign to share the vision and expectations and there is talk of bumper stickers too.

Expect Respect

Fall Team Training Dates

2012 – 2013
Session 1 and
Session 3 Team
Training dates
and places:

- September 24-
25 Fairmont

- October 1–2
Great Falls and
Billings

- October 29-30
Missoula and
Glasgow

MBI Youth Days

- September
30/Oct 1 Miles
City

- October 7-8
Missoula

- November 11-12
Bozeman

- December 2-3
..

*Enjoy your issue
of the
MBI Newsletter*

Visit our Web site at:

opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/MBI/index.html

Ideas for Immediate Implementation

"I-Message" Poster

Post the steps to
an "I-message" to
help kids
remember and use:

I feel _____,

When (you/people)
_____,

And I would
like _____.

Since many
problems may
occur when
students need to
"lineup," eliminate
"lineup" for
students exiting
and entering
the building.

ELIMINATE "STUPID" RULES

*Create and
Give Out
Positive
Office
Referrals*

Target Area for the Week: Being Respectful

Monday: Keep your
cool when you don't
get your way.

Tempers will only
make the situation
worse.

Tuesday: If a
situation does not
involve you, mind
your own business.

Wednesday: Tell the
truth. Not telling the
truth will only make
a situation worse.

Thursday: If
something doesn't
belong to you leave
it alone.

Friday: Respect
school property. If
you use it, put it
back.

Classroom Ideas

1. Post your classroom rules. Go over them, model them, practice them and make it fun.
2. "Loan" pencils, paper, textbooks to students who have "forgotten" to bring that stuff to class. Charge 2 minutes after school for each rental. Don't let them go back to their lockers if they fail to bring supplies.
3. When angry, talk quietly.
4. Joys and Concerns last five minutes of each day.
5. Celebrate successes constantly.
6. Brainstorm and discuss "Ways we want our class to be."

"The number one problem in the classroom is not discipline; it is the lack of procedures and routines."

- Wong